



The Hongkong Telegraph

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GROMYKO'S MIDDLE WAY OFFER

Big Three Request More Time For Consideration

COMMENT

No clear picture is possible, of course, to enable any accurate estimate of the number of persons who have been put to death for political reasons in the newly intensified "purge" by the Chinese Communists. Even if Taipei's figures are grossly exaggerated, however, the eradication has approached the scale of mass murder.

Grimmest aspect of the new decree is its indication of a completely callous attitude towards human life and liberty. Past experience of Communism exerting rigid controls should, perhaps, have reconciled observers to a total disregard of what we hold to be moral values. Nevertheless, each manifestation comes as a fresh shock.

To us it is unthinkable that thousands of Chinese have deserved to die because of what they believed.

What is happening must necessarily have bearing on relations between the free world and the Peking regime. Mao began with an air of liberalism and progress. Because of that Peking found friends and apologists. Then this comes. Loss of that goodwill may be a matter of indifference to Peking if the Moscow model is to be followed. But it is not a matter of light concern to those who were looking for better days in China, after the birthpangs of the revolution.

Au Revoir

Today, on the eve of its 70th birthday, the Hongkong Telegraph has perforce to suspend publication and bid its "Au Revoir" to a host of loyal readers, whose regrets are appreciatively shared.

Factors compelling this exit from the local newspaper field have been already explained—the rapidly mounting cost of production, particularly of newsprint, and the difficulties in guaranteeing adequate supplies.

The time will come, it is hoped, when easier and healthier conditions are restored, permitting this journal to rise again, a Phoenix from the Ashes, and play again its part in the life of this community. Till then, Auf Wiedersehen.

General Feeling That Russia Has Been More Constructive

Paris, Mar. 29.

The "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' deputies today postponed their 20th session for 24 hours to give the Western Powers more time to consider Russia's new compromise offer.

A new proposal put forward by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet delegate, represents a middle way between what the Russian delegation and the Western delegates respectively consider top priority subjects for discussion by the Foreign Ministers later.

The Western Ministers, while recognising it as a concession, are seeking clarification on how far Mr Gromyko still wishes to treat German rearmament as an isolated topic, and whether he still wants to treat the four Powers' armaments as an item separate from the general question of the arms level in Europe.

STRIKES SPREADING IN PERSIA

Teheran, Mar. 29.

Striking transport workers in the Anglo-Iranian oilfields have raised the total of men idle to 10,000, because men have been unable to reach work, official sources said today.

The strike spread yesterday to the Madjidi Sulaiman oilfield, 150 miles north of Abadan. Until then the number of men actually on strike was about 3,000, including 350 apprentices at Abadan, and workmen at Bangar Rasmuk, Naft-Sufit and Agha-Jari.

The garage and transport workers went on strike for higher wages, according to reports from the affected areas.

The Persian authorities are certain that the strikes are inspired by the Communist Tudeh Party, which is taking great advantage of the National Front's oil nationalisation campaign.

A known agitator and leader of the Tudeh Party, Mustafa Lanakarani, has been seen in the southern oilfield region.

The latest reports say the situation is considered calm. There have been few arrests.

The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company has issued leaflets, announcing that workers' grievances will be considered on their return to work.—Reuter.

Famous Paper Suspended

Johannesburg, Mar. 29.

Because of rising costs, the oldest Afrikaans newspaper, Die Volkstem, will suspend publication temporarily after tomorrow's issue.

The paper, which supports the United (Opposition) Party, was established in Pretoria in 1873.—Reuter.

Monks Attack Newspaper

Rangoon, Mar. 29.

Fifty Buddhist monks broke into the office of the Burmese language newspaper, Oway, here today and attacked one of the newspaper's reporters.

Police armed with Sten guns were later standing guard outside the office. The newspaper had carried a report alleging misconduct by a monk in a public place.—Reuter.

What A Star Foretells

London, Mar. 29.

British astrologers think that the Big Four Foreign Ministers will meet in June and there will be a compromise solution of the Korean problem by August.

They will report a whole batch of predictions to this May meeting of the Federation of British Astrologists.

Here are some of the things they say the stars foretell: No world war for 20 years. Molotov will take over from Stalin, whose health is failing, in the next two years. Winston Churchill will win the next British general election—possibly next November, or December. A general world trade slump is likely in 1952-53.—Reuter.

Lady Godiva Chosen

Coventry, Mar. 29.

A young London actress has been chosen from more than 100 applicants to play the part of Lady Godiva and simulate the famous naked ride through the City of Coventry for the Festival of Britain pageant.

She is Ann Wrigg, 27-year-old brunette with an excellent figure, who is said to be a good horsewoman. She said today: "I applied for the role because I love horses."—Reuter.

Mystery Plane Over Delhi

New Delhi, Mar. 29.

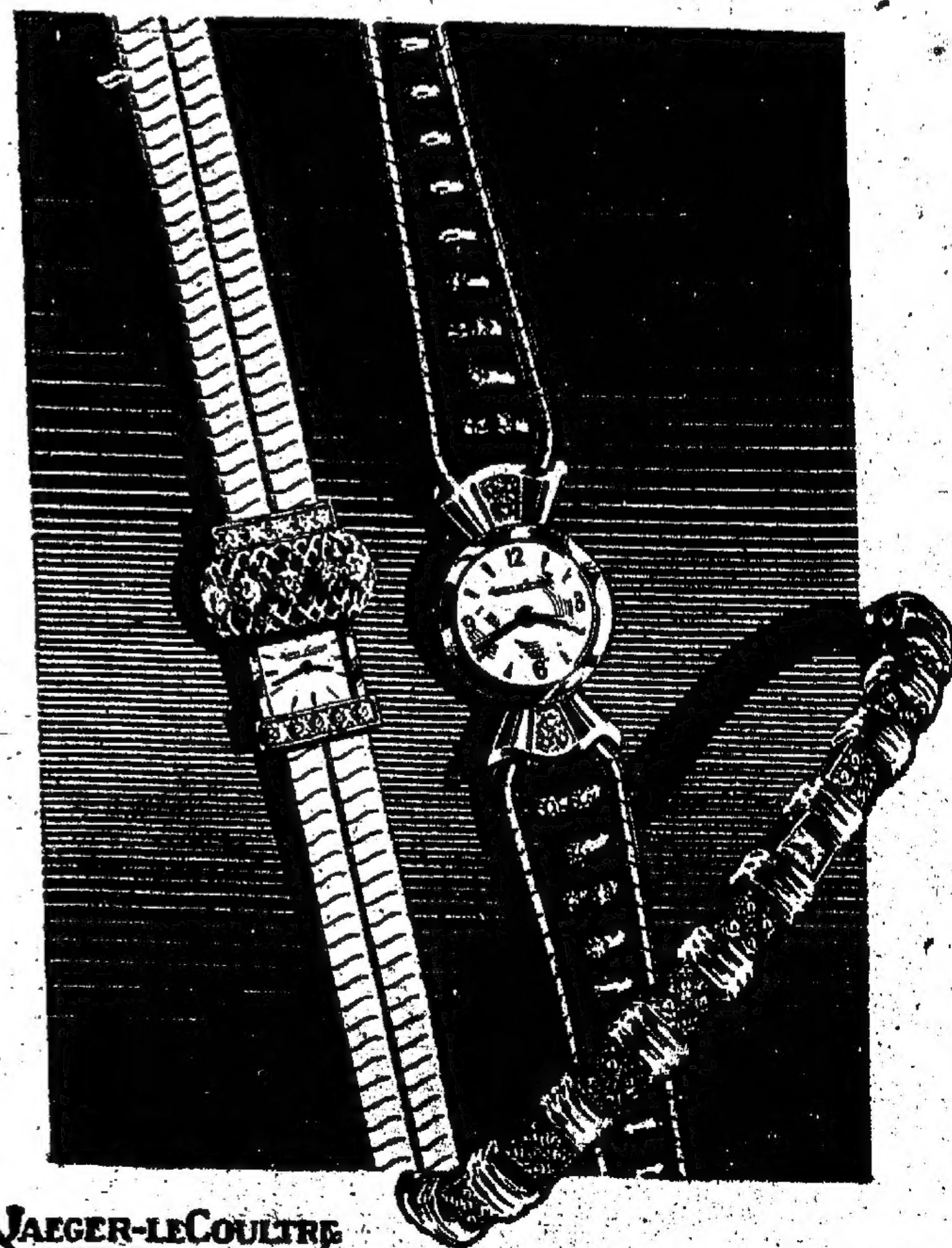
An unidentified mystery plane flew over New Delhi on Thursday at a height too great to be intercepted by planes of the Indian Air Force.

Deputy Defence Minister Major-General Himma Singhji told Parliament he was certain the plane did not belong to the Indian Air Force and had flown over the capital without permission.

The mystery aircraft flew at about 30,000 feet—a height to which the Indian planes could not climb—and left a vapour trail as it passed.

Indian air stations were alerted to intercept it if it should turn up elsewhere.—United Press.

Little Things That Please



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Your guess is as good as ours as to how the young lady got into the bottle. But Laureen O'Dea, the 19-year-old redhead, is quite normally proportioned when she dances at London's Windmill Theatre.

Women Pay Tribute To Ivor Novello

London, Mar. 29. Hundreds of women besieged St. Martin's Church in Central London today for the memorial service of Ivor Novello, Britain's musical comedy king, who died earlier this month.

Squads of police and mounted reinforcements were hard pressed to control crowds who overflowed across the road outside the church.

Inside the packed church—which was decorated with Spring flowers—stage stars knelt with servants and film actresses shared pews with suburban housewives in a final tribute to Novello.

As the mourners came out of the church into the sunlight, Novello's best loved tunes pealed out from the great organ of St. Martin's.—Reuter.

JUST A TRIFLE OPTIMISTIC

Washington, Mar. 29. The Navy indicated today that Senator Warren Magnuson (Democrat) was somewhat optimistic when he predicted that atomic-powered submarines would be ready for service next year.

Senator Magnuson, who made the forecast at a recent news conference in San Francisco, also said that a "small model of the atom sub is in operation."

Information available here indicated that it will be at least two years, possibly five, before atomic subs join the fleet.

A Navy spokesman said today that "no one knows" just when atomic subs will be ready but "we are working on it and it will be ready as soon as we can possibly have it."—United Press.

Bulwark For Right Of Free Speech

Washington, Mar. 29. The Economic Committee at the conference of America Republics received an Ecuadorian resolution today seeking to guarantee that distribution of newsprint would not be curtailed in such a way as to threaten the freedom of the press.

This reminded delegates that newsprint limitation was one of the first troubles encountered by La Prensa, the Buenos Aires newspaper recently shut down by the Peron Government.

The Ecuadorian resolution, which did not specifically mention La Prensa, would ask the American Republics to promise that governmental measures for the distribution and transport of newsprint are to be applied for the purpose of rendering service to the press as an expression of respect for the rights of man, "without preference or limitations which might adversely affect the liberty of the press."

The preamble said: "The scarcity of newsprint seriously affects normal development of organs of the press in the American countries, a bulwark for the right of free speech. It is necessary to join forces in giving every facility to the newspapers of America in order that they may take part in the struggle against the infiltration of doctrines injurious to the democratic system in the New World."—United Press.

BOYCOTT BY HOTELIERS

Geneva, Mar. 29. The Swiss Communist leader, M. Leon Nicole, has been refused registration at his favourite hotel in Berne on the occasion of the Spring sitting of the Swiss Parliament, the Swiss Communist organ, "Voix Ouvrier," reported today.

The paper said: "The refusal follows numerous similar refusals by other hoteliers in the Federal capital to rent lodgings to M. Leon Nicole."

Nicole, who is one of five Communists in the Swiss Parliament, received the following reply from the management: "Sir, in order to avoid the possibility of any incidents between you and our Berne guests during the period of your stay in our establishment, we are extremely sorry that we can no longer accept you at the Hotel National."—Reuter.

WEST ANXIOUS TO GET THREE POINTS CLEARER

Paris, Mar. 29.

Western diplomats believed tonight that a Big Four Foreign Ministers' conference almost certainly would take place this year but they still saw little chance of its bringing about a cold war settlement in Europe.

The three-and-a-half-week-old log jam on the agenda for a Big Four meeting appeared suddenly to have been cracked open by the compromise proposal tossed in by Mr Andrei Gromyko of Russia. That dropped Russia's previous rigid insistence that the Big Four should discuss German demilitarisation separately and as their most urgent problem.

The Western deputies' general reaction was that "it was promising and agreement on the agenda for the Big Four should now be possible, even though they had little hope the Foreign Ministers themselves would reach a settlement."

One Western delegation spokesman commented: "We must admit the Russians have met us half way. This leaves us with no alternative but to try now for full agreement on the agenda. However, the general tone of Mr Gromyko's speech last night, before he introduced the new proposal, was... as aggressive as anything he has ever said before. It showed again how wide apart the East and West still are on all basic issues."

The Western delegates still were far from satisfied with the new Soviet proposal on agenda items and they were determined to have full light thrown on a number of major questions. One diplomat said, "It is still not time to sign on the dotted line."

THREE POINTS

Points which the West still wanted to have made clear included:

1. The Russians will not insist, at the Foreign Ministers' conference, on discussing German demilitarisation—in other words, Allied plans for rearming Western Germany—before any other subject is touched on.
2. Reduction of armaments will not be limited to the Big Four alone but will be on the basis of a general lowering of the level of all armaments in Europe including those of the satellite states.
3. Discussion of breaches of treaty obligations will not merely be an excuse for Soviet charges of Western breaches of the Potsdam agreement but will include breaches by the Balkan satellites of their peace treaties.—United Press.

REDS CUT OFF WATER SUPPLY

Rangoon, Mar. 29. Rangoon's water supply was completely cut off when Communists destroyed the main pipeline leading from the Gyobu reservoirs, 50 miles from the city.

The authorities said that though alternative arrangements for supply were being made, the shortage would last for a fortnight. The population of Rangoon is 500,000.—Reuter.

Death Penalty For Yugoslav

Belgrade, Mar. 29. A Zagreb Military Court today sentenced to death a former Yugoslav Army captain, Rad Mrdjenovic, who was found guilty of spying for Hungary. Mrdjenovic earlier told the Court that he had been ordered to obtain, at any cost, information on Yugoslav military co-operation with the Western Powers. When the President of the Military Tribunal asked: "Was it possible to inform them that this does not exist," the accused replied: "It was."—Reuter.

QUEUILLE TO ACT AS ARBITER

Paris, Mar. 29.

The Prime Minister, M. Henri Queuille, today agreed to the All-Union Strike Committee's request to act as arbiter tonight in the deadlocked strike situation that has crippled Paris public transport for 14 days.

Observers were more optimistic about this than previous meetings, because the strikers used the word "arbitration" for the first time. This gave hope that they would accept M. Queuille's conclusions.

The Strike Committee has so far held out for a 25 per cent wage boost, whereas the Government offered a 12½ per cent rise.

The Minister of Transport, M. Antoine Pinay, also agreed to receive tonight a delegation of Seine Department deputies accompanied by several members of the Strike Committee.

The requisitioning of 300 underground railway specialists made little difference to the situation today. At noon, 91 trains were running out of 450 as against 90 at the same time yesterday.

A Paris transport official said today that the underground railway strike was costing 50 million francs a day, which meant that by tonight the total bill would reach 700 million francs.

Since collectors as well as train crews are on strike, there is no one to issue tickets for the trains that are running.

Tax collectors, post office personnel, civil servants, hospital staff, undertakers, dustmen and other municipal employees were among the latest workers reported to be threatening to join the wage dispute.

The results of a strike ballot among workers on the national air line, Air France, were awaited. Workers in nationalised factories were planning demands for a 15 per cent rise.

Arsenal workers in Brest, Brittany, and at Toulon, in the south, downed tools and other minor strikes continued to flare up in the provinces.—Reuter.

Red Consulates Closed Down

Belgrade, Mar. 29.

The Soviet consulates in Zagreb and Split have been closed down, usually reliable diplomatic sources said here tonight.

It was not known whether this had been done by the Yugoslav authorities, as was thought likely, or by the Russians themselves.

An official statement was awaited. The Soviet staff of the Zagreb consulate was already in Belgrade tonight, presumably on the way out of the country.—Reuter.

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RED OPPOSITION STIFFENING

Holding Determinedly In Figurative Shadows Of Parallel

British Commonwealth Units Astride Chunchon Highway

Tokyo, Mar. 29.

British Commonwealth troops tonight spearheaded the new Allied offensive in Korea but along much of the front the Communist opposition has stiffened perceptibly within the figurative shadows of the 38th, Parallel dividing North and South Korea.

BIG-SCALE ROUND-UP OF REDS

Calcutta, Mar. 29.

More than 1,000 alleged Communists and active sympathisers were rounded up by the police and military in the course of a two-month anti-Red campaign in the Kamrup district in Assam, according to official reports reaching here today.

In combing the wild jungle-clad hills, over a score of Communist hideouts were discovered. A number of guns and a large quantity of ammunition was seized. What was described as a "miniature gun factory" and a "literature dump" was also uncovered.

The authorities claim the 1,066 arrested persons included most of the Communist leaders operating in that area. Fifteen high-ranking leaders were known still at large, but the police believe they are "in the net" and it was only a matter of time before a tightening up leads to their arrest.

Peasants in a certain area which was a notorious hotbed of Red activity, have under Communist influence not been paying land tax to the government or the customary tribute of one fifth of the crops to the landlords for the past couple of years. The peasants are now reported to have resumed payments.

It was admitted however that there still exist a "few pockets where people are in an apathetic or defiant mood."

—United Press.

Copra Quiet

New York, Mar. 29.

There were no sales in either copra or coconut oil. Copra was quoted at \$270 per ton, C.I.F. the Pacific Coast. Coconut oil was offered at 20½ cents, F.O.B. mills.—United Press.

Terrific Explosion In Air Disaster

London, March 29.

An official spokesman said today that the United States Air Force Globemaster which was missing in the Atlantic since Good Friday, was blown to bits by a terrific explosion either in the air or when it hit the water.

The aircraft carrier Coral Sea earlier found the ocean littered with tiny pieces of debris near the spot where the gasoline tank platform from the huge transport was found on Wednesday.

The discovery that the plane exploded and burned removed virtually the last hope that there were any survivors among the 53 men aboard.

The spokesman said: "The possibility of sabotage must be taken into account. But it should be stressed that so far there is absolutely no evidence to in-

dicat sabotage in the case of the Globemaster."

An officer at the headquarters of the Third Air Division said: "The area was littered with small debris. Hundreds of fragments were sighted, not one more than 12 inches long. The pieces were partially charred."

There was as yet no way of determining whether the plane exploded in the air or upon hitting the water. An investigation will be made to try to answer this question through examination of the pieces of the wreckage.—United Press.

The fighting in the central and western sectors followed the pattern of the slowly intensifying Communist resistance which had been evident in the past 48 hours.

With it came new reports of Communist armour moving forward towards the Parallel from the Pyongyang area. Allied fighter pilots caught a group of Russian-made T-34 tanks being driven southward along the main Pyongyang-Seoul highway and claimed the destruction of at least seven of them.

British, Australian and Canadian soldiers advanced along the central front to gain positions along the Seoul-Chunchon highway, the only main east-west supply route south of the Parallel on which the Communists still maintained a foothold.

The British Brigade's push forward northwest of Kapyong encountered almost no Communist resistance despite the Allied-Communist clashes on either side of its positions and the continued reports of Chinese Communist troops moving south from the Parallel into a new central front defence line.

This new Communist defence line is well situated, nestling in the hills overlooking the Chunchon basin, from which the Allied were renewing their attack.

Greek and Thailand patrols northeast and northwest of Chunchon were repelled by strong fire from heavily entrenched Communists.

On the left flank of the British troops, activity slackened off north and northeast of Uijongbu, the scene of stubborn encounters with Chinese Communist rear-guard units on Wednesday.

LITTLE CONTACT

American tank and infantry patrols called up artillery and mortars to soften up the Communists before storming and capturing a hill northeast of Uijongbu. In this single action in the area 70 Chinese Communist dead were counted on the hilltop.

Elsewhere on the western front little was seen of the Communists as the United Nations troops moved cautiously to within five miles of the Parallel at some points.

United Nations frontline officers were apprehensive of any belief that the main Chinese Communist body of troops in the west had pulled out to a great distance to the north.

They said that the main Chinese Communist defences here, as in the central sector, had not been reached.

The officers also pointed to the continued reports of approximately 1,000 Communist trucks spotted nightly in recent days on the North Korean road network.

Allied officers expressed confidence, for this and other reasons, that the Chinese Communists were still working desperately to mass troops for another counter-offensive.

TANKS CAMOUFLAGED

The Fifth Air Force claimed to have destroyed at least seven tanks—six of them in a Mustang attack on a concentration of armour north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

The pilots said that they found the tanks camouflaged under hay in gullies along the main west coast highway. The seventh tank, identified as a T-34, was knocked out on the main North Korean supply road about 60 miles north of Seoul.

In all American Air Force aircraft made 600 sorties during daylight and claimed 250 casualties inflicted on enemy ground troops.

About 30 Russian-type Communist jet fighters clashed with United Nations planes in four separate encounters over North-West Korea today. No damage was reported on either side.—Reuter.

Air Activity In Tonkin

Saigon, Mar. 29.

French fighter pilots pounded Vietnam strongholds in the French-held Tonkin Delta bridgehead despite bad weather, a French Army communiqué said tonight.

The French Air Force also broke up Vietnam troop concentrations near the Dongtrieu mountain group, about 62 miles north of Tonkin's capital of Hanoi.

French and Vietnamese troops increased their patrols against enemy ambush activities in all sectors of Tonkin. The Vietnam launched some patrols against French-held villages in the northern perimeter of the delta, the communiqué added.—Reuter.



M. Vincent Auriol, President of France, and Mme. Auriol are now in Washington on a State visit to President Truman. This picture was taken last week in their cabin on board the liner Ile de France after leaving Le Havre bound for New York.—Central Press Photo.

She'd Studied The Idea A Long Time

Jessie, W. Virginia, Mar. 29. An attractive 40-year-old widow who went on the air in quest of a husband vowed today that she would "have a home before I leave this world or die trying."

Mrs. Mattie Thomas said, "I'm in dead earnest. I want to leave something behind so they will know I've been here."

Mrs. Thomas said she is waiting anxiously to hear from six or seven prospective bridegrooms who called up the radio station? WWWW, in nearby Pineville, West Virginia, on Wednesday after she went on air to ask for a mate.

"I don't care whether he is 20, 40 or 60 just as long as he has a home to take me to," said Mrs. Thomas, who is a doctor's receptionist. She said she was in her "prime" and would not mind having children. She described herself as "good-looking, and willing to provide a good home for the prospective husband" in her radio interview.

Her husband died a number of years ago. The couple had one child who died. Mrs. Thomas' radio interview was impromptu, but she said she had been "studying the idea for a long time" before she walked unannounced into the radio station and declared that she "is looking for a husband."—United Press.

Didn't Know His History

Tokyo, Mar. 29.

An 18-year-old boy told the Hachinoji City police that he did not know that the Emperor Meiji was a great man. He was arrested on Tuesday for stealing a bronze sword belonging to the Emperor Meiji, grandfather of the present Emperor.

He said he was disappointed that the sword was not made of pure bronze, because it would have fetched a better price as scrap metal.—Reuter.

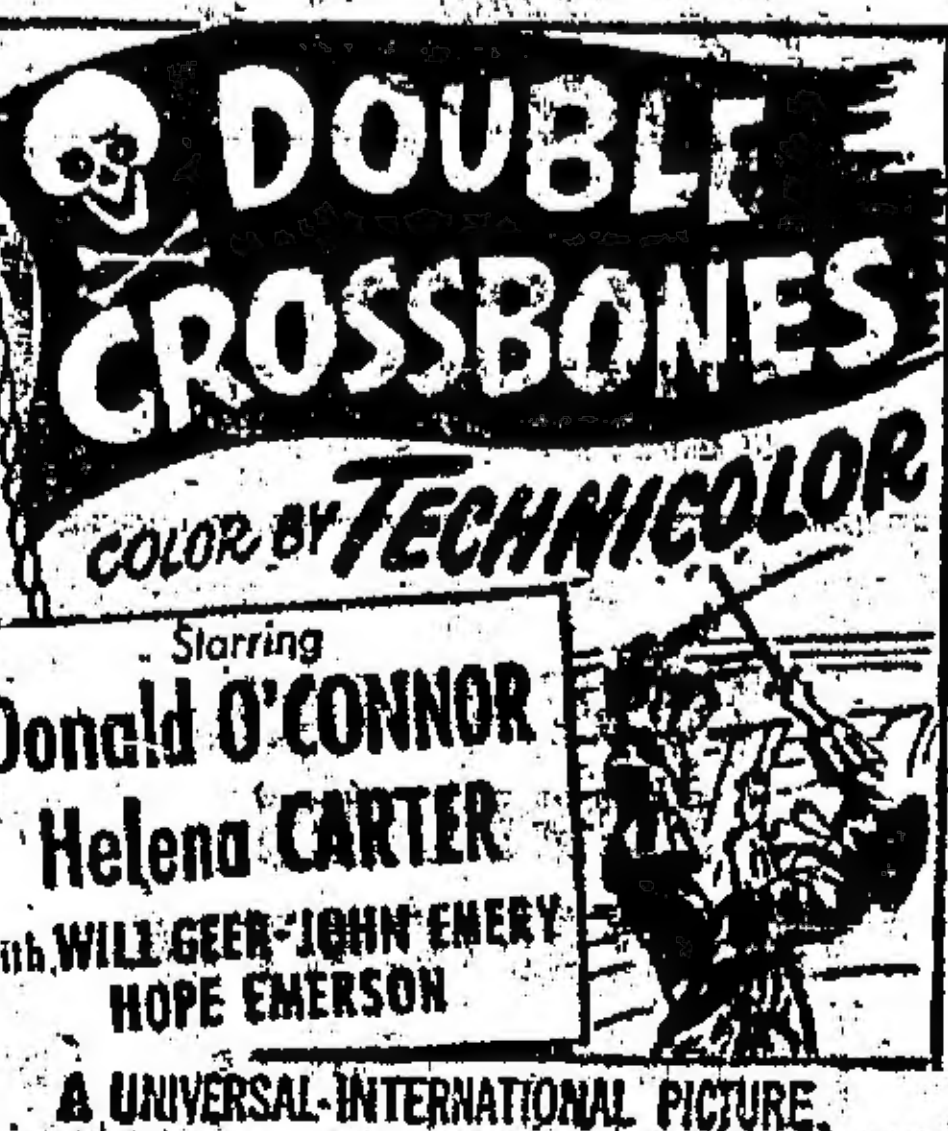
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GOAT MASCOT LEADS THE ROYAL WELCH



Leading the parade of the Royal Welch Fusiliers is Billy, the regimental goat, in Southamptton. The battalion was preparing to board the trooper Dilwara for the Caribbean. Yes, Billy went with them.

Skin-Deep Friendship

New York, Mar. 29.
A man, aged 43, whose body had been so severely burned in a boiler explosion that he lost 70 per cent of his skin, has been discharged from hospital after 4,680 square centimetres of his skin—a gift from 14 friends—had been grafted on him. The friends attended a party to celebrate the successful operation.—Reuter.

House-Cleaning Grant

London, Mar. 29.
The Government today earmarked £275,000 to help British landlords to smarten up their hotels for tourists this summer. The grant will repay hoteliers some of the purchase tax they spend on new equipment to attract dollar-spending and other visitors to the Festival of Britain.—Reuter.

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Auriol Pledges Support By France Of Atlantic Pact

Washington, Mar. 29.

President Vincent Auriol of France today told President Truman that the French people are determined to defend themselves against foreign aggression. He also pledged that France will give all-out support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

M. Auriol and Mr Truman had a conference in the Cabinet Room of the White House. M. Auriol spoke in French and Mr Truman in English with interpreters translating their remarks. The conference lasted an hour.

The White House announced afterwards: "The remarks of the President of the French Republic included a statement that the French people were determined to defend themselves against foreign aggression and that, in this spirit, they were giving all-out support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation."

Mr Truman's Press Secretary, Mr Joseph Scott, said that M. Auriol also assured Mr Truman that the French forces and the associated states of Indo-China were successfully opposing Communist aggression in Indo-China.

The White House said: "Mr Truman was encouraged by President Auriol's remarks, and expressed his confidence that peace could and would be maintained and the democratic peoples would preserve unshakable unity in the pursuit of their great objective—peace for all the world."

A high French source said that the French President was very satisfied with the talk. Present were Mr Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, and M. Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister.

FRANCE'S RECORD

In an address to the National Press Club today, M. Auriol said that France resented accusations that she was without the sinews or the will to defend herself.

He asked American newspapermen to judge France by facts and not by propaganda. He recalled the state of ruin and paralysis that France was left in by the war. But France had rebuilt 90 percent of her

harbours, 60 percent of the roads and bridges and all the railways, and had made great progress in other fields.

It had been said that the French were without courage. "For you, gentlemen, who know us very well," M. Auriol said, "it is not necessary that I recall the resistance of the underground, the Maquis, the uprising of the French forces of the Interior, nor the fight in the Tchad, Bir Hakeim in Tunisia, in Italy, on the Rhine, on the Danube or, finally, the entry of General Leclerc into Berchtesgaden."

And since 1945 France had been fighting a severe campaign in the Far East to defend Indo-China. She had lost 28,000 of her best officers and troops in the fighting.

M. Auriol declared France had the sinews and courage to fight aggression anywhere in the free world.

AN INSULT

He continued: "The insistence with which such accusations are made, even though explained by inaccurate information or partisan passion, in the long run constitute an insult as cruel as it is unjust. We have good reasons to know what aggression is and what it costs; and that is why we are doing and shall do all within our power not only to resist aggression should it occur, but to deter it and to save peace."

The real France was on her feet once again following the devastation of two world wars on her soil. The occupation of France by Nazi Germany early in the last war stemmed from a crisis in the League of Nations and crises in international and collective security which left France nearly alone.

France was left in a state of pain and paralysis by the war and the German occupation and took courage and strength

to rebuild "this shattered land." He took pains to explain that the recurring French Cabinet troubles should not be mistaken for political weaknesses. Regardless of changes in leadership, France had had only two Foreign Ministers in six years—Georges Bidault and Robert Schuman.

France had spent \$24,550,000 to resist Communist aggression in Indo-China in addition to the loss of 28,000 officers and troops since 1945. And today, he added, France was devoting one third of her national budget to defence.

Meanwhile M. Schuman was expected to press for the appointment of a high-ranking French admiral to the combined Mediterranean defence command.

Another item in M. Auriol's programme today was the laying of a wreath of red, white and blue flowers at the statue of General Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution. The statue, standing in Lafayette Park opposite the White House, was erected by Congress.

Tonight M. Auriol is dining with the Secretary of State, Mr Acheson, and Mrs Acheson.—Reuter and United Press.

Gold Coast Leader To Get US Degree

Accra, Mar. 29.

Kwame Nkrumah, leader of the Gold Coast Government, has accepted an invitation to visit the United States to receive an honorary degree.

He will deliver the beginning of the term address at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, on June 5 and receive the degree, on the invitation of Mr Horace Bond, President of the University.—Reuter.

KASHMIR SOLUTION REJECTED BY INDIA

Lake Success, Mar. 29.

Sir Benegal Rau took the floor today to restate India's position as the Security Council approached a vote on the Anglo-American resolution which is aimed at settling the Kashmir dispute.

Sir Benegal made it clear that India was unable to accept the revised draft of the Anglo-American resolution and declared that the plebiscite recommended by the United Nations had been delayed by the Pakistani "invasion" of Kashmir. He said Kashmir's accession to India "continues to be effective and it will inevitably so continue unless and until the people of Kashmir settle the question otherwise."

Sir Benegal said that the resolution sought to reopen matters settled by international agreements between India, Pakistan and the United Nations Commission in 1948-49—mainly the question of interpretation on the extent of withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir—and to make further concessions to Pakistan. India rejected arbitration in the case not on principle but because arbitration in this case sought to reopen issues already settled.

Sir Benegal addressed much of his speech to the British delegate, who in past speeches had strongly criticised the Indian position.

"I would only ask whether Sir Gladwyn Jebb would agree to a proposal that matters of military security vital to the United Kingdom should be decided not by its own Government nor even with its consent but by arbitrators chosen by somebody else after consultation with the very country that invaded British territory."

THE DANGERS

Declaring that parts of the Anglo-American resolution violated the 1948 resolution and this alone was enough reason for India to reject the draft, Sir Benegal said the recently-discovered plot in the Pakistani Army and calls for a holy war in Pakistan "indicate forcibly the dangers of any failure to give adequate security to the State."

India would have no objections to the appointment of a new United Nations representative to "make a fresh attempt to assist by suggestion, advice and mediation how proposals regarding demilitarisation under the resolution of Aug. 13, 1948 and Jan. 5, 1949 should be implemented, with due regard to assurances given to my Government in connection therewith."

"This, of course, is subject to my Government's views regarding arbitration. . . in effect, therefore, the revised resolution continues to ignore the basic facts of the situation in Kashmir and includes provisions which we all along made amply clear that we cannot accept. . . Continuous intensive propaganda in Pakistan for a holy war and levelling of wild, baseless charges against India, hardly provide a suitable background."—United Press.

Farm Products Up In Price

London, Mar. 29.

The Ministry of Agriculture today announced a £73,500,000 increase in the price of farm products. This figure was agreed between the Government and the National Farmers' Union, to compensate for greatly increased production costs.

Observers here said that the increase would almost certainly mean that the public would have to pay more for some foods. The alternative was higher Government subsidies to farmers.—Reuter.

TRUMAN SUPPORTS MARSHALL

President Endorses Statement On Crossing 38th Parallel

Decision Depends Entirely On Military Developments

Washington, Mar. 29.

President Truman, at his Press conference today, endorsed the statement made last Tuesday by the Defence Secretary, General George C. Marshall, that any general United Nations advance over the 38th Parallel would be a political matter.

The President repeatedly refused to make any other comment on this except to say that he was referring his questioners to General Marshall's statement in its entirety.

General Marshall said, "The controlling factor in the instructions to General MacArthur is that he should safeguard the security of his command. Any general advance is a matter for political consideration."

A correspondent pressed the President to say whether there had been any change in the United States Government's support for the United Nations resolution to unify and liberate all of Korea.

President Truman replied that, of course, there had been no such change but he added emphatically that this should not be taken as an implication that United Nations forces might now go all the way to the Yalu River.

President Truman said the United States still aimed for a free, united and liberated Korea regardless of tactical questions involved regarding a crossing of the 38th Parallel.

President Truman said the United Nations forces under General MacArthur may cross the Parallel for practical reasons under standing instructions to the General which remain unchanged.

This did not imply, however, that Allied troops would go all the way to the Yalu River, on the Manchurian border. The decision how far they would go depended upon military developments which neither he nor any general in the field could foresee. — Reuter and United Press.

PLAN CHANGED?

New York, Mar. 29. Authoritative sources here said today it was possible that the American proposal for a public declaration of objectives by the 14 nations engaged in the Korean war might be dropped. Representatives of the United Nations members having troops in Korea have been discussing for some time a draft statement prepared by the State Department.

The State Department is still awaiting comments on the proposed declaration from the Governments involved. — Reuter.

WHAT NEXT?

New York, Mar. 29. A New York Times editorial captioned "What Next In Korea?" commented on the recent Marshall-MacArthur statements. The editorial said: "So far as the immediate future is concerned, it seems

to us that the important question to be decided through close consultation with our principal allies in the field is a question which General Marshall's statement leaves unanswered, and to which we draw attention: Namely, in what force and how far may General MacArthur cross the Parallel if military considerations favour such crossing?

"Here, it seems to us, a flexible rather than arbitrary policy should be followed, for the Korean war has clearly become a war of manoeuvre, and it is Maginot Line-type of thinking which would halt (that type of warfare) at the 38th Parallel.

"The present type of war cannot be fought successfully that way. The Chinese Communists already have one privileged sanctuary in Manchuria from which they launched their attacks. It would be an unfair hardship to the United Nations troops to give them another such 'sanctuary' so close to the present area of combat." — United Press.

New Defence Pattern Visualised

Washington, Mar. 29.

A new pattern of inter-American defence, similar to the North Atlantic Treaty organisation, may emerge from the American Foreign Ministers' Conference here.

The United States has been joined by Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay and Uruguay in a resolution calling on the other American Republics to direct their national military policies so that each will concentrate on the role to which it is best fitted in the overall pattern of collective defence.

In adopted, the resolution would see the end of the current practice of each nation building its army, navy and air force with an eye to its own national defence only.

The Argentine delegate, however, has thus far opposed the proposal. — Reuter.

Egyptian Approach To Britain

London, Mar. 29.

The Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in London, Mr Albert Mansour, pressed for the speedy return to Cairo of the British Ambassador, Sir Ralph Stevenson, when he paid a first call on the new Foreign Secretary, Mr Herbert Morrison, today, according to a usually well-informed diplomatic source.

Mr Mansour was understood to have conveyed to Mr Morrison a personal message from the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Salah El Din Bey, expressing hope for a speedy resolution of the negotiations for revision of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty. These were broken off last January.

He was replying to a British message to the Egyptian Government delivered in Cairo last Saturday by the British Minister, Mr E. Chapman Andrews, explaining the reason for the delay in the Ambassador's return.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that Mr Chapman Andrews confirmed that Sir Ralph would be returning to Cairo shortly. He is expected to take with him a clarification of the latest British standpoint in the treaty negotiations, making possible a resumption of the negotiations. — Reuter.

NEW ROCKET TESTS

Alamogordo, Mar. 29.

The United States Air Force shot a 1,000-pound test-rocket 61 miles into the air above the New Mexico desert yesterday.

The rocket, the first fired in the new tests, marked the beginning of experiments aimed at finding out more about the upper reaches of the atmosphere.

Officials said that the test, if successful, may open a new phase of aeronautical and weather control. They could also provide information to improve the guidance of pilotless planes and long-range missiles—giving a better defence against bacteriological and atomic warfare. — Reuter.



Princess Margaret wore a full-skirted ankle-length cocktail coat in royal blue velvet, with a tiny rolled collar and bonnet-style hat to match, when she visited a fashion show organised by the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers at Warwick House, St. James's. — Central Press Photo.

Red Rebels Issue 'Unity' Manifesto

Rome, Mar. 29.

Leaders of the anti-Cominform revolt in the 2,000,000-member Italian Communist Party today issued the first formal manifesto for their workers' "unity and independence" movement.

Drafted mainly by the rebel Communist deputies Aldo Cucchi and Valdo Magnana, the manifesto added little to the opinions they have already expressed in pamphlets and speeches.

It reiterated that Italy must be defended against any aggressor and that Italian workers should achieve their own "social revolution" independently of any foreign power bloc.

As Signors Cucchi and Magnani issued their manifesto, more defections from the Communist and its allied Socialist parties were reported from Tuscany and Sicily.

In the Arezzo region, one man, Ballocci, was expelled from the (Nenni) Socialist Party for "political indignity" and another, Valdardini, from the Communist Party for "Titoism and betrayal."

Valdardini, a former mayor of Cortona, was expelled with

seven of his party friends when his resignation was refused by the Arezzo Communist Federation.

In Gela, Sicily, the local Communist Party secretary, Piazza, was reported to have resigned and asked for membership in the Christian Democratic Party. — Reuter.

Palace Official In Trouble

Marrakesh, Mar. 29.

French police here handed over to the local Court of Justice today a Moroccan administrative official of the Sultan's Marrakesh Palace—accused of a "smash and grab" raid on a jeweller's shop.

The man was arrested when trying to sell the jewels. The buyer recognised the jewels, according to the police. — Reuter.

NANCY

Bubble Illusion

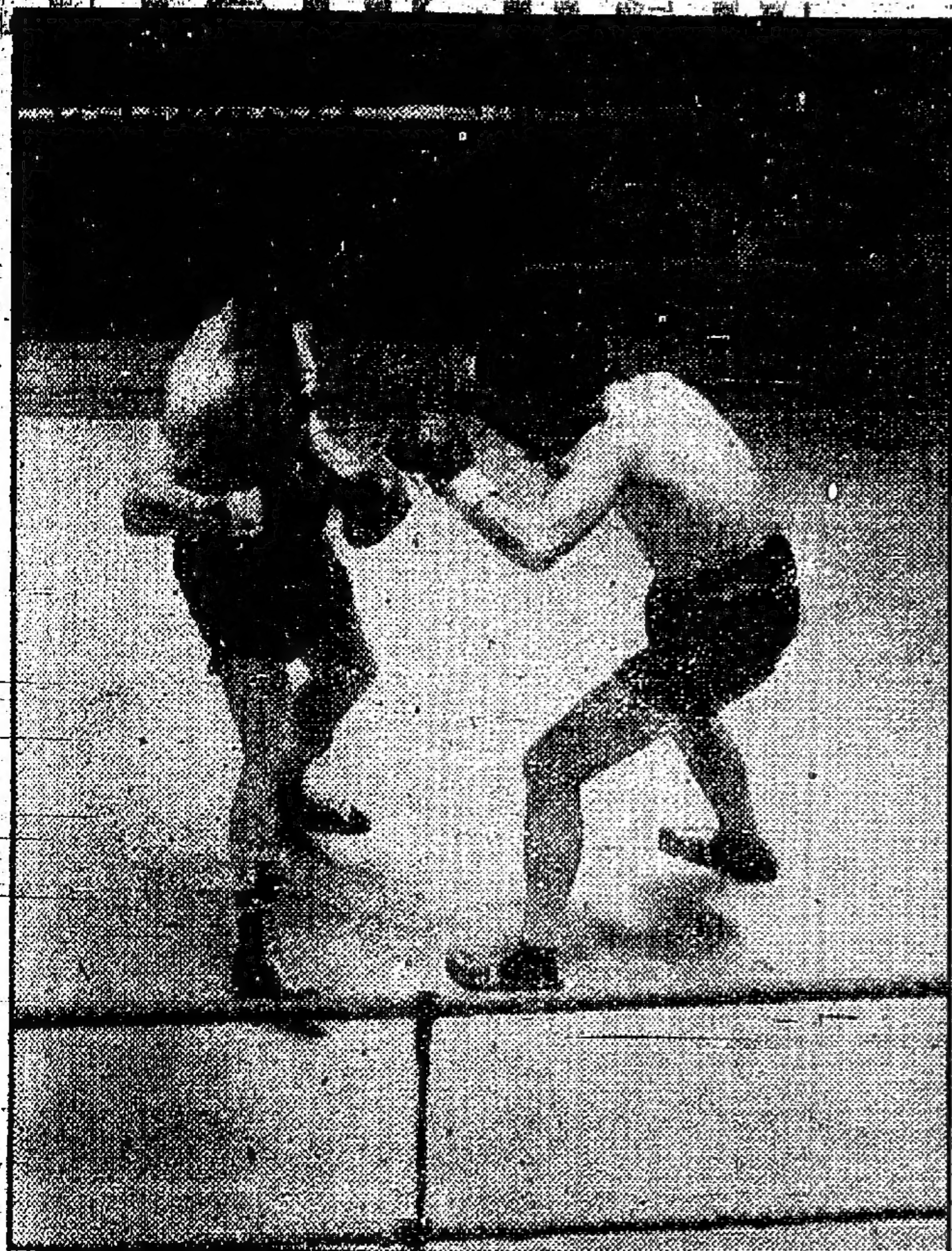
By Ernie Bushmiller



When there's bif I needn't use my fist!



VIC HERMAN WINS



Vic Herman of Glasgow, Flyweight Champion of Scotland, knocked out Juan Crystobel of Madrid, Flyweight Champion of Spain, in the second round of their scheduled 10-round contest at Belle Vue, Manchester. Photo shows Crystobel (right) weaving in to the carefully watching Herman.

Cockell And Finch May Yet Meet For The Cruiserweight Title

Says ARCHIE QUICK

Training together at Brighton are two boxers who in the near future may provide the next British Cruiserweight Championship fight. Don Cockell, the reigning king of the 12 st. 7 lbs. division, is preparing for his European title, but watching him closely is former Middleweight Champion Albert Finch. Finch has moved up into the cruiserweight class and won both his fights there, and he now plans a contest in Paris. But Cockell is his objective, and many good judges fancy his chance.

Cockell told me that his recent trip to South Africa has acted as a cure for the arthritis which has been troubling him for a long while, and that he feels better now than at any time during the past two years.

"So do I," said Finch to me afterwards. "Trying to make the middleweight limit to defend my championship against Randolph Turpin nearly killed me. I should have gone up among the cruisers long ago."

Training with Cockell is Doug Miller, the clever South African, and he told me that the recent visit to the Union of Cockell, Jack Gardner, Eddie Thomas and Jack Solomons has set the Union aflame with enthusiasm and that there will be a big exodus from Johannesburg to London of South Africa's boxers when the 1951 season gets under way here. He thinks heavyweight Strydom will make good in time.

WHY NOT HARVEY?

Miller, a deep-thinking lad, voiced a thought which is a particular fad of mine. "Why do your managers not employ famous ex-champions like Len Harvey to help the present boxers along and why is there not at least one good gymnasium in London for us to work out?"

How true that is. If I managed a prospect like Gardner or Cockell I would make post haste for Len Harvey in his West London licensed house and say: "Teach my lad all you know." Ally Gardner's strength, hitting power, youth, weight and height to Harvey's superlative skill and England would indeed have a champion

STANLEY MATTHEWS CAN BE BLACKPOOL'S CUP WINNER

Says PETER DITTON

London.

A 35-year-old, slightly balding Blackpool hotel proprietor will probably be the key man of the 1951 FA Cup Final to be played at Wembley on April 28. Stanley Matthews, for that is his name, has been England's outside-right since 1936 and in his 15 years of International soccer he has proved himself to be the greatest exhibitionist and goal-maker in the game.

Now in the twilight of his career and playing as well as at any time previously, Matthews will be making his second attempt to win an FA Cup medal, one of the few honours in the game still denied him.

Three years ago Matthews was a member of the Blackpool team which reached the FA Cup Final for the first time ever. Thousands of soccer fans all over the country would have rejoiced with Stanley if he had been on the winning side, such is the measure of his popularity.

But it was not to be. Blackpool took an early lead when their right back Shinwell converted a penalty but the Manchester United struck back to equalise and although Blackpool regained the lead at 2-1 they were eventually beaten 4-2.

If history repeats itself however, Blackpool and Matthews will not be disappointed a second time. Records show that teams beaten on their first appearance in a Cup Final are invariably successful at the second attempt.

Newcastle have won the coveted trophy three times so there is no such superstition working in their favour. Not that that is likely to worry them. They can take solace from the fact that in League matches this season they have taken three points out of Blackpool, beating them 4-2 at Newcastle and drawing 2-2 at Bloomfield Road.

DIFFERENT MATTER

But playing at Wembley is a different proposition from playing in a League match as Newcastle could well discover. League success is not necessarily a prelude to victory in the Cup.

There is no doubt that Blackpool have in Matthews the man who can dictate the whole course of the game. He was not at his best in the match against Manchester three years ago and that was undoubtedly one of the reasons that Blackpool lost.

This year, however, Matthews has been pulling every trick out of the bag and has been mainly responsible for Blackpool's success. His brilliant runs down the right wing which have left sometimes as many as three and four defenders in their wake, have made the way easy for the other forwards to score.

Matthews himself is not a great goal-scorer. In fact it usually makes headlines if he gets a goal. This season, for instance, he has not found the net once. But during his long career he has made literally hundreds for his fellow-forwards; passes served up on a

plate so that all they had to do was stick out a foot and pilot the ball into the net.

And his 'panie' value is another exceptionally important factor. Defenders, packing their goalmouth to keep out a Matthews centre, are just as likely in their confusion to put the ball into their own net as not.

England will shortly be announcing the side for the International with Scotland on April 14. For their right-wing trio they could do no better than select the Blackpool players, Harry Johnston, right-half and captain, Matthews and Mortensen.

These three formed what was undoubtedly the strongest right wing alliance in the country until Blackpool decided to exploit Mortensen's speed by converting him into a centre-forward.

STRENGTH IN ATTACK

Similarly the Scottish selectors could do worse than keep an eye upon Brown and Mudie, the two inside-forwards. For undoubtedly Blackpool's strength lies in their forward line and the quick-moving Mudie and the studious Brown have developed a first-rate understanding and are more than just foils for Matthews.

Behind this strong forward line the defence has been moulded into a well-disciplined unit, taking its example from the never-say-die spirit of skipper Johnson.

Indeed, to analyse the Blackpool team, from goalkeeper Farm to outside-left Perry, they are one of the best balanced sides the Football League has produced since the war.

Blackpool's fortunes are guided by a Manager, Joe Smith, who must rank with the best that the game knows. He was himself a great player and the alliance he formed with Teddy Vizard, the great Welsh International, has now become a legend. These two helped Bolton Wanderers to win two FA Cup Finals in the short space of four years in the early 1920's.

—(London Express Service)

Turpin Erases One Black Mark

By Archie Quick

Randolph Turpin, Britain's greatest boxing champion, has erased one black mark against his record. Way back in 1948, the immature Randolph was knocked down three times by Jean Stock, of France, and stopped in the fifth round.

At Leicester in the first of his two fights in a week, Turpin knocked down Stock three times and the referee stopped it in the fifth round. Strange coincidence, that!

Stock is a rugged fighter and for five rounds he took terrible punishment, but the test did go to show that Turpin is improving with every fight. His punching is devastating in its weight and accuracy, but we still do not know whether he can take punishment.

As his manager, George Middleton, says: "Produce the man who can extend him, and we shall see." I feel only Sugar Ray Robinson can do that, but I think, perhaps, that Turpin will have a fight on his hands with Australian Dave Sands, although Turpin should win.

AS BEFITS THE BEST

As befits the best boxing bill I have witnessed in the Provinces for a long while, we had two former world champions at the ringside—Jimmy Wilde and Freddie Mills—whilst I sat next to that great boxer of yesteryear, Jack Hood, who hopes to run into second fame as a radio broadcaster.

Freddie Mills told me one new appropriate story of Leicester. During the war he appeared there at a charity show and asked a motorist outside the hall for a lift back to his Gloucester RAF Station. "Not so-and-so likely," said the driver. "You spivs are a menace!"

THE GAMBOLS

by Barry Appleby



FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Effort To Break
Deadlock At The
Tin Conference

Washington, Mar. 29.

The United States Government is studying a proposal from tin producing nations aimed at breaking the stalemate in international efforts to set up a scheme for allocating the free world's tin production, Reuter learned authoritatively.

The proposal was submitted to the United States during informal talks which have been going on here since Mar. 14 between representatives of the United States, Britain, Belgium, Indonesia and the Netherlands in an effort to control the price and allocate production.

The first stage of these talks concluded yesterday. Delegates from overseas are going home and reporting to their governments without having reached agreement.

But officials emphasised today that negotiations had not been broken off and that the talks were being continued here by permanent representatives of the tin-producing countries.

The proposal now under study by the United States Government is that producer nations would agree to international allocation of their tin production for a limited period on the following conditions:

- (1) If the United States Government will co-operate in arriving at a price for tin satisfactory to the needs of the tin-producing industry.
- (2) If the United States will commit itself in advance to purchase for allocation any residual surpluses that may be anticipated in tin production.
- (3) If the United States will demonstrate its willingness to co-operate in the conclusion of an international tin agreement which would provide for allocation of tin during periods of shortage and also control production during periods of surplus.—Reuter.

DISCUSSIONS
ON TARIFFS

Torquay, Mar. 29.

Delegates from the 32 contracting nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade opened a special session at the Torquay tariff talks here today to discuss European tariff questions.

The session is being held in secret and is expected to last only a few days.

The talks will continue side by side with the actual tariff negotiations between the countries, which are now in their final stages.

This is the second plenary session of the contracting parties to be held during the Torquay conference. The first opened last November and lasted six weeks.—Reuter.

TIN MARKET
QUIET

London, Mar. 29.

The tin market was quiet today. Turnover was 55 tons, including 10 tons for spot.

Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—

Spot tin, buyers	1,230
Spot tin, sellers	1,240
Business done at	1,230
Three-months tin, buyers	1,155
Three-months tin, sellers	1,160
Business done at	1,160-1,150
Settlement	1,230

—United Press.

NEW YORK UP

New York, Mar. 29.

Under the revision of the selling price permitted by the Government's new margin regulations, spot tin was quoted today at \$1.46 per pound, up 12 cents from the former ceiling.—United Press.

Reorganising
Ruhr Steel

Bonn, Mar. 29.

The United States, British and French High Commissioners today agreed that Germany's steel industry should be reorganised into 24 companies, it was learned in authoritative quarters here.

They also agreed that 12 of these companies may own coal mines supplying them with up to 75 per cent of their fuel. These proposals were both made in a memorandum from the West German Government.

An Allied communiqué said that the High Commissioners today agreed on a reply to the West Germans.—Reuter.



"What more could a woman ask for? I've got a lovely home, two fine children, that..."

KEN SMITH And John G. DRUMMOND Show Talking

CHAPLIN GETS DOWN
TO AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The lights have been switched on in the Chaplin studios for the first time in four years—the best news we have had from Hollywood since "Monsieur Verdoux."

The new film, title "Limelight," author, director, producer and star, Charles Spencer Chaplin, is only the fifth he has made in 20 years.

In it he will appear as an ageing English music-hall comedian who wants to make a comeback but has lost his confidence and is haunted by the fear that he can no longer get the laughs.

Chaplin began on the halls and much of this must surely be autobiographical; but in answer to a cabled query Charlie would commit himself to no more than a cryptic "Everything is autobiographical."

If it is to be partly the Chaplin story, will we catch a glimpse of 'Arry? He was a red-nosed cab driver at the New Cut near Waterloo Station, who gave Chaplin the idea for his screen personality.

'Arry was a little man with splayed feet; he shuffled along only with difficulty but wore with what dignity he could muster a tattered coat and a bowler hat. Chaplin added the cane and black moustache and the rest is history.

A pity he changed his mind about making "Limelight" in Britain.

Contact with his genius would have been more than adequate compensation to British films for the loss of Stewart Granger.

HE'S GREAT

Genius is a word we would hesitate to apply to the genial Granger, but the moguls at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer are dancing little fandangoes of glee every time they look at the chart of his box-office returns. They are banging the drum.

Seeds And Oils

New York, Mar. 29.

Prices in the seeds and oils market here closed today unchanged with the following exceptions:—

Castor Seed, per long ton, F.O.B.—Brazilian Port. 2.80 nominal.—United Press.

been authorised by the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, France, India, Italy, Pakistan, Sweden and the United States.—Reuter.

DECLINE IN
COTTON
MARKET

New York, Mar. 29.

Cotton futures ended a session of alternate rallies and declines with prices mostly on the downside. Nearby May delivery held to 45.39, the ceiling price, but new crop positions became a target for renewed liquidation and hedging when spot house demand for December evaporated overnight.

Short covering by day traders bolstered July position at the close.

The reported refusal of the Chinese Communists to agree to a peace parley was balanced by reports of a more conciliatory attitude by the Russians at the Paris Conference.

The news from the dry goods trade continued depressing with producers fearing a definite let-down in civilian demand for apparel type fabrics which may be followed sooner or later by a let-down in military demand for cotton cloths.

The market opened 4 lower to 8 points higher. Thereafter, it seesawed irregularly. The final prices ruled 6 higher to 34 points lower. Prices closed today as follows:—

Spot	46.00 nominal
May	45.39 bid
July	45.10
October	40.60
December	40.14
March (1952)	39.93-39.86
May	39.74 nominal
July	39.34

—United Press.

Grain Prices
In Chicago

Chicago, Mar. 29.

Prices of grain futures closed here today as follows:—

Wheat—price per bushel	
Spot	2.47
May	2.47 1/2 - 2.48
July	2.45 1/2 - 2.46
September	2.40 1/2 - 1/2
December	2.50
Corn	
Spot	1.78 1/4
May	1.78 1/4 - 3/4
July	1.80 1/4 - 3/4
September	1.78 1/4 - 3/4
December	1.68 1/4
Rye	
Spot	1.93
May	1.89
Oats	
Spot	94 1/2 - 1/4
May	85-87 - 3/4
July	85-87 - 3/4

New York flour—per 200 lb. sack, \$13.20.—United Press.

Jap Mission At
The Hague

The Hague, Mar. 29.

A Japanese trade mission arrived here today to establish a permanent agency for the promotion of Dutch-Japanese trade, it was officially announced.

The mission has a similar character to the mission of similar nature which has

James Mason, has turned crooner and in "A Lady Possessed" will warble three ballads specially composed in his honour.

We hear that they are rehearsing hard-teaching him to smile.

It appears that even the saturnine George Sanders has a fine bass-baritone voice which he means to give to the world.

He goes into the Broadway version of "South Pacific" with Martha Wright when Mary Martin brings this hit musical to London.

Last time Sanders used his voice on a stage was playing a bit part in Noel Coward's "Conversation Piece" at His Majesty's Theatre in 1934.

Valerie Hobson was a young hopeful walking on in the same show.

CAUSTIC CRACK

The wickedly witty Tallulah Bankhead is generally believed to be the original of the actress played by Bette Davis in "All About Eve."

Latest caustic crack from her, which is certainly in character, was hurled at an ageing and very up-stage film star with whom she crossed verbal swords.

"Why she's so old she used to make pictures for 19th Century-Fox!"

STANDARD BRIDGE

By A. L. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South.

North-South game.

N.

♠ 8

♣ J 9 6 3

♦ A Q J 5 2

♥ 9 7 3

W.

♠ 5 4

♣ K Q 10 5 2

♦ 6 4 3

♥ J 5

E.

♠ A Q 10 9 8 2

♣ 4

♦ 9 7

♥ K 8 4 2

S.

♠ K 7 3

♣ A 8 7

♦ K 10 8

♥ A K 10 6

When this deal occurred in rubber bridge, South opened One No Trump, which North should have raised in spite of his singleton. In practice he gave the weakness response of Two Diamonds, over which East ventured Two Spades, passed by South and West. North was conscious that he had underbid on the first round and now tried Three Hearts. South passed this call; he should have returned to Four Diamonds, obviously North's longer suit. West decided to leave well alone. Had North raised No Trumps direct, East might have been silenced and South would have made game with ease after the normal lead of ♠ K by West. North was two down in Three Hearts, although the contract can be made after East's lead of ♠ 2.

—London Express Service.

HOPES OF KOREA PEACE STILL PERSIST IN U.K.

No Significance Seen In Rejection Of MacArthur Offer

London, Mar. 29.

Hopes of peace in Korea were still held out in British Government quarters today. These are based on the belief that Communist China must now realise that the United Nations forces have no intention of withdrawing from the fight, and that a military solution is, therefore, unlikely.

It was felt that the Chinese Communist armies might nevertheless make one more all-out effort to drive the Allied forces out.

Peking's rejection of General MacArthur's Good Friday truce offer indicated this possibility.

Statue Of Venus Accusation

London, Mar. 29.

Lieutenant Colonel Cutler, 52-year-old King's Messenger, whose Russian visa was said to have been cancelled by the Soviet authorities yesterday, arrived here by air today, but would not comment on the story that he had "lifted" a statue of Venus. The Soviet newspaper Evening Moscow alleged that Cutler was one of two men responsible for removing a small bronze statue of Venus from the Savoy Hotel in Moscow.

Cutler went from the airport to the Foreign Office by special car.—Reuter.

But failure of this effort would underline the desirability from China's point of view of a political settlement while the rival forces are poised along the 38th Parallel.

This belief is thought to be behind the new appeal that President Truman is shortly making to the Chinese Communist Government in the name of the 14 United Nations members most concerned in the Korean fighting.

It is not expected in diplomatic quarters in London that this will sketch out specific truce terms but only renew the earlier offers to consider a negotiated settlement.

Intelligence reports available in Tokyo today indicated that the Communists were planning a major counter-stroke against the Allies before the summer.

IN THE DUSTBIN

Observers, therefore, were not surprised at a Peking Radio statement that General MacArthur's offer to meet the Communist field commander to make a truce would go "into the dustbin."

The statement was made by the unofficial "Chinese People's Committee for World Peace against American Aggression."

A committee spokesman rejected General MacArthur's statement as "not worthy of reply," but urged China to watch closely any developments of the threat to invade the Chinese mainland.

A British source in Tokyo commented that even in retreat the Communists were tying up eight United States divisions and 30,000 other Allied troops in Korea.

Geographic positions in the Korean peninsula were of less interest to the Communist plans than the overall Asian picture in terms of both military and propaganda calculations.

"SENSATIONAL"

The London correspondent of the Dutch newspaper, Volkskrant, quoting a "reliable diplomatic source," wrote today that the Soviet delegate to the United Nations, M. Jacob Malik, had said that Communist China was ready for Korean peace talks.

The correspondent said that M. Malik made this "sensational statement" when asked what he thought about the chances of a new appeal to Peking.

The correspondent added that speculation about a change of the Soviet policy in the Far East had increased after a Russian report that the Deputy Premier, M. Molotov, had taken over the Soviet Foreign Office from M. Andrei Vyshinsky, who is ill with pneumonia.

Usually well-informed quarters in London believed today that the suggestion attributed to M. Malik that the Chinese Communist Government was now ready for peace talks was made three weeks to a month ago.

M. Malik was reported to have let fall a hint to this effect during a casual conversation with another delegate to Lake Success.—Reuter.

CONGRESS WARNED TO SPEED AID

Washington, Mar. 29.

President Truman at his press conference today appealed for speedy action by Congress on his request for two million tons of food grains for India.

The President said that prompt action was vital.

"Each day's delay after April 1 in starting shipments will leave a serious gap in India's food supply later this summer and cause great suffering," he said.

The United States could, at some sacrifice, spare grain. It should be given both to save human lives and strengthen freedom and democracy in an important part of Asia, Mr. Truman added.

The first million tons should be provided promptly as a grant while the United States explored in greater detail the situation regarding the remaining million, he said.

Urging prompt action by Congress, President Truman said that the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee had carefully investigated the matter and on March 5 had favourably reported a bill to provide the grain to India. The bill had bi-partisan support.

"It reflects the desire of the American people to help the Indian people in their present emergency," the President said.—Reuter.

U.S. Plans Huge Airbase In France

Paris, Mar. 29.

The United States Air Force has completed plans for the construction in West Central France of one of the greatest airbases in Europe, U.S. Embassy officials said today.

The base will be manned by 10,000 men, including 2,000 to 3,000 Americans and 7,000 Frenchmen. It will include:

1. Storage facilities for an aerial armada to be held in readiness against invasion.
2. Repair facilities for American-made planes used by Western European air forces.
3. Instruction facilities for training European technicians and engineers in the maintenance and repair of American planes.

The base will be built around the existing aeroplane factory in Chateauroux, 150 miles south-west of Paris. Embassy officials said the agreement to build the base was negotiated with France under the terms of the mutual defence assistance pact.—United Press.



Kay Meredith shows a cut-away front design in a display of 1951 swimsuits held in London last week.

Swept Away In A Boat On Point Of Rescue

Cairo, Mar. 29.

Aircraft and ships searched the Eastern Mediterranean today for a Greek sea captain swept away alone in a ship's lifeboat when on the point of being rescued.

His ship, the Panamanian Semiramis (622 tons), sank 60 miles off Mersa Matruh, Libya, early yesterday.

Today, his Chief Engineer, Elias Faraklas, also a Greek, told how Captain Demetre Calios, from the island of Chios, was lost. With 16 other survivors, including a woman, he arrived at Alexandria today on board the British steamer Carlton.

Faraklas said: "About four o'clock yesterday morning, we noticed the Semiramis was taking water and by six o'clock the master ordered the crew to abandon ship, which was taking a general cargo to Benghazi."

"The master and crew boarded two lifeboats and tried to make for the shore. The two boats were tied together by a long rope."

"After 12 hours the boats sighted a ship, which turned out to be the Carlton. She steamed towards us, and rescue operations began just after night-fall."

"When only the captain remained to be rescued, a strong current swept his lifeboat away, and it drifted out of sight. The Carlton's master ordered an immediate search, and the area was circled for 10 hours, with searchlights sweeping the sea."

"When day broke the Carlton wirelessly Cyprus, and two planes were reported to have seen" out from there to continue the search."

Faraklas added: "I am sure the captain will be found. His lifeboat carried water and food."

The woman survivor is Angela Confopandelis, wife of the first mechanic of the Semiramis, both of whom are from Chios, and is the missing captain's sister-in-law.

Apart from two Egyptians, who went to their homes when the Carlton reached Alexandria, all the other survivors are Greeks; they are now in Alexandria.—United Press.

German Paper Under Ban

Hanover, Mar. 29.

The Communist newspaper, "Die Wahrheit," was banned for 90 days by the Allied High Commissioner today for publishing "maliciously faked" pictures of the U.S. High Commissioner, John McCloy, purportedly "studying pictures of the North Korean war dead."

The paper also came under Allied disapproval for the publication of a front-page article inciting Germans to resist Allied measures for the defence of Germany.—United Press.

The Hongkong Telegraph

Morning Post Building, Hongkong.

NOTICE

Owing to the further increase in the cost of Newsprint, coupled with the difficulty in obtaining supplies, it has been decided to discontinue the Noon edition of the Hongkong Telegraph as from 1st April, 1951. The China Mail will take over the special features now appearing in the Telegraph. The unexpired portions of prepaid subscriptions are now being refunded.

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AMERICAN ATOM SPIES CONVICTED

New York, Mar. 29.

Three Americans were found guilty on Thursday of stealing national atom bomb secrets for delivery to Russia.

They face possible death penalty for espionage in wartime.

Julius Rosenberg, 32, his wife Ethel, 35, and Morton Sobell, 33, were convicted by a Federal court jury of conspiring with Mrs. Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, and a former Russian consular official here to deliver atom bomb plans to Soviet Russia.

The trial was the first in the nation for atomic espionage.

Greenglass pleaded guilty. The three native-born Americans showed little emotion as the jury returned the verdict. Rosenberg and his small dark-haired wife clasped hands under the counsel table as the verdict was read. Sobell stared impassively at the jury.

Motions preparatory to an appeal are scheduled to be heard at the time of the sentencing, set by the judge for April 5.

The jury made no request for leniency. Judge, Irving Kaufman had told them they might do so but that he would not be bound by their recommendation in passing sentence.

United States Attorney Irving Saypol said: "Greenglass will be sentenced at the same time as the others." He refused to disclose what recommendation, if any, the government will make as to death penalty or a lesser sentence.—United Press.

U.S. Casualties

Washington, Mar. 29.

The announced American casualties in Korea rose to 57,120 today, an increase of 1,306 since last week.

The total, representing casualties reported to the next of kin up to March 23, included 8,511 killed, 37,918 wounded and 10,691 missing in action.—Reuter.